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SURGEON GENERAL'S OFFICE,

Richmond, August 14, 1862.

The indifference heretofore manifested by Medical Officers, with regard to records of gunshot and other wounds, and operations thereby induced, necessitates their being instructed to keep accurate and reliable records of all such cases, and in view of its importance, to give this subject all the attention it deserves.

This is demanded not only in justice to the corps of which they are members, and from which much interesting statistical information will be expected at the close of the war, but also for the benefit of the science of Surgery at large, which should not be deprived of the advantages to be reaped from so extended a field of observation as that which now presents itself.

To promote the accomplishment of this purpose, Medical Inspectors will give special attention to the examination of Case Books and Field Notes, and will report the relative industry and accuracy with which these records are kept.

Medical Directors will require from the Medical Officers serving in their respective departments, such statements as can be reliably made, as to the history of all wounds and consequent surgical operations occurring in commands under their professional care, since the commencement of the war—specifying the nature and seat of such wounds, the character of the operations performed, whether primary, intermediary or secondary, and also the corresponding rate of mortality.

Medical Officers will also for the future be required to forward to the Medical Director, with the Monthly Reports of Sick and Wounded, accurately filled copies of the Blank Forms issued to the latter from this office for distribution, in which will also be noted all cases of secondary hemorrhage, and all interesting information as to the results of the use of anæsthetics.

The receipt of this Circular will be acknowledged.

S. P. MOORE,
Surg. Genl. C. S. Army.



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